

Front Page	Edit Page	Other Page
CHICAGO, ILL. NEWS		
E. 496,980		
SEP 3 1965		

## Call the CIA to Account

The shabby and mortifying episode involving an alleged effort to bribe the prime minister of Singapore poses a question demanding a decisive answer from President Johnson: Why is the Central Intelligence Agency deputized to run a large part of U.S. foreign policy?

This is surely what it was doing if, as charged, an agent offered the chief of a friendly state \$3,300,000 to cover-up a 1960 CIA effort to buy information from Singapore intelligence officials.

It is quite true that major and minor nations play the cloak-and-dagger game constantly, all over the world. Perhaps an effort to trade dollars for important information can be pragmatically justified as a dirty but necessary business.

But the attempted bribery to hush up Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew goes far beyond the limits of excusable hanky-panky. It is a brazen, stupid insult to a sovereign ally, demeaning to him and to his nation—but far more demeaning to the United States.

Beyond that, it discloses a fantastic ignorance of the nature of the people the United States has looked to for understanding and support in a critical quarter of the world. If the word "intelligence" in the CIA's title does not embrace that rudimentary kind of sensitivity and understanding, then in the name, itself, is something of a fraud.

It should hardly need to be said at this point of the cold war that the conduct of

foreign policy by gumshoe methods falls woefully short of meeting the need. If anything will win for the United States, it is the generation of faith in this nation—faith in its principles, its character, its integrity. And if anything will lose for the United States it is the destruction of that faith.

There is strong evidence that the CIA does not understand this. It methodically tries to lie its way out of embarrassing positions, even when in the nature of things its lies are bound to be found out.

Again, we do not mean to be naive as to the facts of international life: The essence of espionage is deception, and doubtless it has to go on.

But when the State Department itself is painfully embarrassed by ignorance of a piece of business that shakes the foundation of this nation's relationship with an important ally—then both the bumbling and its cover-up have passed the limits of tolerability. If Prime Minister Lee, having just broken away from the Malaysian Federation, now turns to Communist China as a more reliable friend, he will be one of a parade including the chiefs of state of Indonesia, Cambodia and Burma. In each case the CIA has been cited as a principal cause of the embitterment. The stakes remain colossal in that area—far too great, surely, to permit the making of U.S. policy by any except those who bear the final responsibility. The CIA has been "untouchable" for far too long. It should be called sternly to account.

CPYRGHT